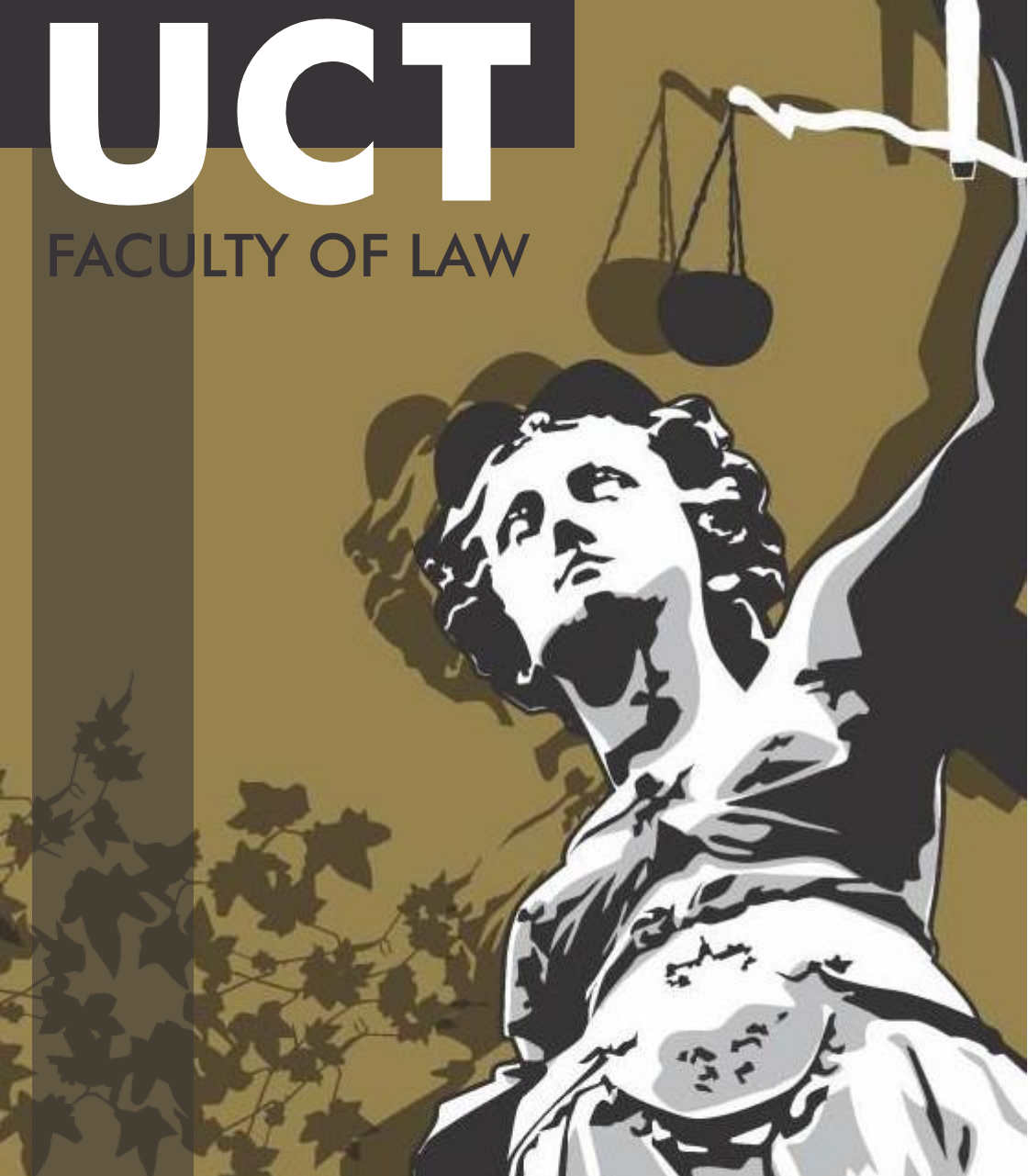


UCT

FACULTY OF LAW



CHOOSE LAW

www.law.uct.ac.za





WHY STUDY LAW?

There are many reasons why people choose to study Law. These include, amongst many others, being able to earn a good, secure living – because at some point, everybody needs a lawyer; status – as a traditional profession with good income potential; acquiring the skills to make a difference in the world; using Law to ensure access to justice amongst marginalised communities; having the knowledge and skills to make a real impact in specialised areas of commerce – eg. shipping, tax and contracts; contributing to the quality and security of people’s lives by ensuring they have their personal legal documentation in order; and contributing to academic knowledge about how the law is developed, practiced, implemented and accessed. These are just a few reasons.

Many students come to study Law, knowing with certainty that they want to work in the Law sector. These students don’t usually require convincing or persuasion, and may have had a long-time passion for and interest in Law. This can often arise from life experience – for example, someone who has seen and experienced injustice first-hand may be committed to spending their lives working for justice.

For those who aren’t sure what they want to study, and who perhaps have a choice of offers from a university, here are a few good reasons why studying Law is an excellent choice:

Make a difference

Law is one route to contributing to changing and improving people’s lives, by ensuring access to justice for those who are not able to afford legal fees, and by providing legal advice and representation to marginalised communities.

Combine theory and practice

All Law schools seek to ensure that students learn, understand and can argue legal theory and the theoretical underpinnings of the Law. However, some Law schools (such as UCT) also ensure that practical experience in Law is a core component of the degree programme – for example, running mock courts and moot competitions. Central to the UCT Law programme is pro bono community service that students are required to do as part of their qualification.

Make the case

Law education is about cases – actual examples of cases that have been argued and judged in a real court. Cases are used to demonstrate various theoretical points and how theory is applied in practice. This approach also serves to maintain an understanding of how the law is applied in practice.

Follow a skilled professional path

Good law schools will ensure that their graduates have a minimum set of competences and skills. Here are a few of the skills essential to a career in Law:

- *Critical analysis* – being able to read, understand, analyse and make up your own mind
- *Writing* – being able to draft a clear written argument
- *Research* – being able to find relevant case law in support of a legal argument
- *Argument and presentation* – being able clearly to formulate and argue your position or point (often taught through moot competitions in and between law schools).
- *Sharing ideas* – it is required in Law that you are able to argue complex ideas in simple terms, so that not only other law professionals but also your clients are able to understand you.

All of these skills – and the many others you will learn at Law school – are in high demand in other sectors, so moving industries or professional focus from Law to something else after graduation is relatively easy, adding to Law graduates' mobility in terms of career, income potential and other factors in choosing your course of study.

We call these “transferable skills” as they are useful in many contexts and make the LLB a flexible qualification and a **great career choice**.

In high demand

Law graduates enjoy excellent career prospects. The rigour of a Law school education, and the range of skills in which excellence is required for graduation, ensures that law graduates are sought after across a range of areas.

Clear career pathways

There are a number of options for those graduating with a Law degree – including doing a postgraduate Law Masters (LLM), taking up a position as a candidate attorney at a law firm or doing a Legal Practice course, for example.

CAREERS IN LAW

To become an attorney or an advocate you need an LLB (Bachelor of Laws) degree. An LLB is the universal general qualification for the practice of law, although the content of LLB programmes differs from country to country, and from university to university.

At the University of Cape Town, students are taught the fundamentals of South African law and the South African legal system. At the same time, students are taught three crucial skills, namely:

- to read, comprehend and critically evaluate complex documents
- to write clearly, logically, coherently and succinctly
- to analyse and solve problems with a good grasp of the issues, options and implications.

Some of the many possible law-based career paths are set out below.

Academic: A Bachelor of Laws (LLB) is the first step to an academic career. The LLB is a equivalent to an Honours degree, and UCT does not therefore offer an Honours degree in Law. LLB graduates wishing to study further would continue into the Master of Laws (LLM) or Postgraduate Diploma programmes. These options offer a very broad range of graduate courses from which to select a specialisation. LLM graduates could then continue on to do a PhD degree.

Advocate: An LLB graduate wanting to become an advocate must undergo one year's training (called "pupillage") with a practising Advocate who would be a member of the Bar. The "pupil" then has to write an examination and, if they pass, would be admitted to the Bar. Only South African citizens and permanent residents can be admitted as advocates in South Africa. The work of an advocate generally involves research, drafting opinions and pleadings, and presenting cases in court, most often - though not exclusively - in the High Court. Advocates must be briefed or instructed by attorneys, and do not take instruction from members of the public.

Attorney: For an LLB graduate to become an attorney, they need to do their "articles" at a law firm – which means serving as a candidate attorney with a practising attorney. After this, candidate attorney's write a professional examination

set by the relevant provincial law society to become an attorney. Only South African citizens and permanent residents can be admitted as attorneys in South Africa. Attorneys' work includes drafting legal documents, negotiating settlements of disputes, and preparing cases for presentation in court. Attorneys take instructions from members of the public and, if necessary, may brief or seek an opinion from an advocate.

Business: Law graduates are employed across the whole business spectrum, from small firms to large corporations, for example as legal advisors in tax, real estate, labour relations, contracts, public information, mergers & acquisitions, and other areas. Lawyers are forensic auditors and ombudsmen, ethics and employment officers, policy and legislative analysts, legal editors, researchers and writers. There is a world of options around what kind of company to work in, what sort of business sector to position oneself in, and where a law graduate could best apply their skills.

Government: Government departments at national, provincial and local levels all employ lawyers as do the National Parliament, provincial legislatures and municipal councils. There is no sector of government in which lawyers do not play a role. For example, the Department of Justice employs state attorneys, prosecutors, legal drafters and of course magistrates and judges. Law graduates interested in international law can join the departments of Foreign Affairs or Trade and Industry. Again, as with the business sector, the options are wide open.

NGOs and public benefit organisations: Many Law graduates who are committed to social justice and the transformation of South African and global society seek work in the non-profit and social change sector, using their knowledge of and skills in the field of law to effect change. Researchers and lobbyists with law qualifications are in demand by such civil society organisations.

A Law degree equips graduates with finely-honed skills that set them apart, so that becoming a lawyer is only one of many options.

WHY STUDY LAW AT UCT?

Whether you choose to be a lawyer in the corporate world, an academic, working for government, or in the non-profit sector, the UCT LLB degree is an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers.

These are the top reasons for studying Law at UCT:

1. UCT Law graduates are highly sought after, not only in South Africa but internationally – ensuring improved opportunities on graduation
2. UCT LLB students will graduate with the full set of skills required in legal practice, with plenty of opportunities during the degree programme to enhance these skills further
3. The UCT Faculty of Law is rated among the Top 100 Law Schools in the world (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 QS World University Rankings)
4. UCT attracts excellent students from diverse backgrounds, ensuring a rich learning environment
5. Our aim at UCT Law is to train the next generation of skilled legal professionals who will ensure the maintenance and strengthening of an open, free and democratic South Africa and who will secure our capacity to contribute to and shape law at a global level
6. UCT Law offers three different programme options to attain an LLB degree – a combined BA LLB or BCom LLB; a 4-year straight LLB; or a graduate LLB programme (3 years) that can be undertaken after completing an undergraduate non-law degree.
7. We are home to almost 100 academic staff in the Faculty, 22 of whom have National Research Foundation (NRF) ratings – based on the quality of their research publication, their standing internationally amongst their peers, and other factors. These ratings are hard to achieve, and UCT Law is very proud of the excellence of its staff, recognised through their NRF ratings.
8. UCT Law hosts at least 11 world-class research units, focused on various aspects of legal theory, practice and implementation

9. UCT Law is unique in its practical graduation requirement of 30 hours of community service, which ensures that UCT Law students graduate not only with experience of law practice, but also with a sense of their role in society
10. Our excellent law library is linked to major international electronic databases, and also houses 284 top class law journals and more than 85 000 books in its constantly updated collections
11. The Faculty has the fantastic Oliver Tambo Moot Court for student use, to practice their skills in legal argument
12. At the UCT Faculty of Law we are committed to furthering the goals of the Constitution.

WAYS OF GETTING A UCT LLB

There are three routes to obtaining an LLB degree:

- First, you could do a Humanities or Commerce undergraduate degree with a Law major, followed by a 2-year LLB programme
- Second, we offer a four-year undergraduate LLB
- Third, we offer a three-year graduate LLB option for those with undergraduate degrees unrelated to Law.

Regardless of which route you choose, all Law students must complete the core curriculum.

| Undergraduate LLB (4 years) | BA/B Com B Soc Sc and LLB (5 years) B Bus Sc and LLB (6 years) | Graduate LLB (3 years) |
|---|---|--|
| CORE CURRICULUM | | |
| Preliminary Year | Intermediate Year | Final Year |
| SA Law in Context Constitutional Law Foundations of SA Law Law of Persons and Family Law of Property Law of Succession | African Customary Law Community Service Corporation Law Criminal Law | International Law Jurisprudence Law of Contract Law of Delict |
| Administrative Law Civil Procedure Commercial Transactions Law Criminal Procedure Evidence Labour Law | | |

In addition to core courses, undergraduate LLB students must complete

one English course or Word Power, a non-law option (two semester courses in another faculty), two semester courses in a single language, or a whole course in a language and a non-law option (two second year level semester courses in one discipline in another faculty).

In final year, students have an opportunity to choose from a range of electives, as outlined in the table below.

| SEMINARS-AND-RESEARCH-PAPER ELECTIVES INCLUDE | | |
|---|---|--|
| Advanced Property Law Civil Justice Reform Competition Law Constitutional Litigation | Criminal Justice & Constitution Current Developments in Company Law Jurisprudence and SA Law Law and Post-Apartheid Literature | Legal Pluralism & Human Rights Private Law & Human Rights Social Justice & Constitution Women and Law |

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

The Faculty receives a large number of applications from those hoping to study Law. Due to the limited number of places, the university is not able to admit all those who apply. If there are more applicants who meet the admission criteria than there are places, only the best applicants will be made an offer. The application process is therefore quite competitive. However, the Faculty has various routes to ensure that we take more than just academic performance into account. We encourage those with an interest in Law and who want to study Law to apply to UCT – if you don't apply, you can't be considered for a place in the Faculty of Law!

When applying to UCT, you will need to select the Faculty in which you wish to study, and you will then need to select the degree programme for which you are applying. UCT offers applicants a first choice and a second choice of degree when applying.

For international students, it is important to note that there are limited places available for international applicants on the undergraduate LLB programme. It is also **very important for international students to note that obtaining an LLB from a South**

African university, including UCT, does not entitle non-citizens to be admitted to practice in South Africa.

Admission to the “Combined Stream” - Humanities and Commerce Bachelor’s with a law major

Applicants wanting to do a combined-degree LLB, with law subjects as part of their undergraduate degree and where the LLB degree programme is a two-year course undertaken after the first degree, must apply to the Faculty in which their undergraduate degree is located. Applicants to the Humanities and Commerce Faculties must meet the admission requirements of those Faculties.

Students who wish to do a major in law begin taking law subjects in their second year of study. ~~However~~, students are not automatically permitted to do law subjects, and students would still need to achieve certain marks to qualify for entry into the law major in the BA, BSocSc or BCom / BBusSc degrees. Such candidates must have achieved sufficient points in the National Senior Certificate for admission to the four-year undergraduate LLB or, alternatively, they must have passed all their courses in their first year on a first sitting and have obtained an average of at least 65% (Humanities students) and at least 63% (Commerce students) in a standard first-year programme (i.e. programme with 8 semester courses). **PLEASE NOTE: the requirement to take the National Benchmark Tests for applications to study at UCT in 2021 has been waived due to COVID-19.**

So if you are wanting to do a combined degree, you need to apply to the Faculty in which your undergraduate or first degree programme sits – for example, if you want to do BCom LLB, then you need to select the Faculty of Commerce for admission for your undergraduate studies.

Admission to the undergraduate LLB

For the four-year straight LLB degree, applicants must specify the Faculty of Law when applying to University of Cape Town. All such applications are assessed on the basis of applicants’ results in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) or other school-leaving examination. **PLEASE NOTE: the requirement to take the National Benchmark Tests for applications to study at UCT in 2021 has been waived due to COVID-19.**

Admission to the three-year graduate LLB

For the three-year graduate LLB degree, applicants must select the Faculty of Law when applying. This LLB programme is listed as **an undergraduate degree**. Applicants can only be admitted to this stream if they are a graduate of UCT or of another university or institution recognised by UCT.

Students enter this stream after completing a bachelor's degree without a **law** major. Applicants must obtain an average of at least 65% in a standard undergraduate degree to be admitted to this **LLB**. The applicant's results on a first sitting are used in calculating the average. As such, the results of supplementary examinations are not included but the results of deferred examinations are included. Students with an average of less than 65% will not normally be admitted, but the Faculty may at its discretion admit students whom it believes nevertheless show the potential to succeed in their LLB studies.

In exercising its discretion, the Faculty will consider the applicant's academic performance in the non-law subjects, taking account of the university's policy of redress and diversity. An applicant admitted on this basis may be offered a place on the 4-year programme.

"Prominent graduates include Justices Kate O' Regan & Albie Sachs, Judges Fikile Bam, Dennis Davis, Shehnaz Meer & Vincent Saldanha, the late Minister of Justice, Dullah Omar, and Norman Arendse, Fink Haysom & Dumisa Ntsebeza"

REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021

PLEASE NOTE: the requirement to take the National Benchmark Tests for applications to study in 2021 has been waived due to COVID-19.

Admissions Bands

| ELIGIBLE | | ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS |
|---|----------------------|---|
| All SA Applicants | Band A FPS | GUARANTEED ADMISSION FPS: 530 or above |
| All SA Applicants | Band B WPS | PROBABLE ADMISSION WPS: 510 or above <i>Note: An applicant with a maximum disadvantage score of 10% and a FPS of 464 will meet the WPS requirement (464 + 46 = 510)</i> |
| Only SA Applicants in targeted redress categories | Band C FPS | POSSIBLE ADMISSION FPS: 460 or above |
| International applicants with NSC | | PROBABLE ADMISSION FPS 530 or above |

There are three admissions Bands that are applied in the Law Faculty – A, B and C as in the table above.

Applicants' NSC results are converted into a Faculty Points Score (FPS), a score out of 600 calculated by adding together an applicant's six matric subject marks (excluding Life Orientation). For applicants who have socio-economic disadvantage related to home and/or schooling circumstance, a Weighted Point Score (WPS) will also be considered alongside the FPS and NBT results. The Faculty also has a redress category, with a lower FPS requirement than the general category, to ensure that those with historical disadvantage stand a fair chance of admission to UCT Law.

This ensures greater fairness in the assessment and admission process.

Transferring/ Non-SA students

International applicants or students transferring from another Faculty within UCT or from another university should contact the Law Faculty Office for details on the admission process.

Conditional and early offers of a place on the LLB programme

Conditional offers will usually be made only once two sets of internal school examination results and the NBT results are available. In exceptional cases, where the applicant is unable to write the NBT and the school results that are available place the applicant in Band A or Band B, a conditional offer may be made on the basis of the FPS results alone. Such applicants will still be required to write the NBTs before the offer is made final. The last opportunity to do so will be in October.

Scholarships

The Faculty of Law offers a number of scholarships annually, that are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Many of these scholarships are specifically to address transformation of both the Law School and the legal profession more broadly. These scholarships are highly competitive and can be applied for – see www.law.uct.ac.za for more detail. To apply, go to <https://applyonline.uct.ac.za>

The Faculty also awards a small number of merit-based entrance scholarships on the basis of school-leaving exam and NBT results. These are awarded at the discretion of the Faculty and cannot be applied for.

**NEED TO
HELP FINANCE
YOUR STUDIES**



How do I apply? All applications for financial aid and NSFAS funding will be managed centrally by NSFAS for all higher education institutions. **Apply on-line at NSFAS.org.za or complete their hard-copy form, which can be posted or emailed.**

There are a limited number of Endowment Scholarships for top black SA learners. Email: law-dean@uct.ac.za before 31 August.



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